

COMMENDING BARTER THEATRE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 416) commending Barter Theatre on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 416

Whereas Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, presents its 75th anniversary season in 2008;

Whereas Barter Theatre was founded in 1933 by visionary Robert Porterfield, who originated the idea of offering people admission to artistic performances in exchange for fresh produce and livestock, inspiring the name, "Barter Theatre";

Whereas in 1946, the Virginia General Assembly designated Barter Theatre as the State Theatre of Virginia, the first theater to receive this distinction;

Whereas Barter Theatre is a favorite destination for regional, national, and international visitors, and its patrons have more than doubled over the past 10 years;

Whereas in 2006, the company's 2 stages drew 160,000 patrons for live theatrical productions, including comedies, musicals, dramas, mysteries, and innovative new works, to educate and entertain audiences;

Whereas, as one of the few resident theaters still functioning, Barter Theatre is the longest continuously operating Equity theater in the country;

Whereas the Barter Players, the touring company of the theater, travel to 8 States each year, performing at schools and community venues, augmenting the artistic education for all ages;

Whereas Barter Theatre's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights is an annual arts festival that celebrates the richness of Appalachian history and culture by providing a venue where the story of the region, both past and present, can be explored and showcased by area playwrights and writers;

Whereas Barter Theatre has created and implemented an award-winning Internet Distance Learning Program which teaches students about artistic and technical theatrical elements using a web-based interactive program available to classrooms across the region;

Whereas the Barter Theatre Student Matinee Program provides the opportunity for students to attend professional theater performances, ask questions of the actors and other theater professionals, participate in set design and acting workshops, and learn about the inner workings of a professional theater;

Whereas the Barter Theatre Young Playwrights Festival offers a contest for local high school students to write and submit plays of their own, with the winning plays performed by professionals at Barter Theatre, encouraging the development of students' writing skills and creativity and providing training to educators in teaching playwriting; and

Whereas Barter Theatre is a premiere tourist attraction in Southwest Virginia and one

of the cornerstones of tourism for the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends and congratulates Barter Theatre on the occasion of its 75th anniversary;

(2) recognizes Barter Theatre for providing 75 years of high quality artistic programs to visitors and the surrounding community, educational programs, and a venue for artistic development in Southwest Virginia;

(3) recognizes that Barter Theatre is a valuable educational resource, reaching 18,000 students each season through its productions on two stages; and

(4) recognizes that educational outreach of Barter Theatre, which includes the Young Playwrights Festival, the Internet Distance Learning Program, the Student Matinee Program, and the touring company of Barter Theatre, the Barter Players, exposes young people to playwriting and performances and encourages artistic expression.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS OF THE YOUTH IMPACT PROGRAM

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1413 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1413

Whereas many at-risk young men in the Nation's inner cities face a challenging and uncertain future;

Whereas the future success of at-risk young men can be greatly enhanced through sustained mentorship;

Whereas effective working partnerships between and within the public and private sectors can have a lasting and positive impact on the future of these young men;

Whereas participation in organized sports has provided a creative and disciplined outlet and a path to a better life for many at-risk males;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program combines the disciplines of football, mentoring, and academics in partnership between local National Football League (NFL) franchises and universities to promote discipline, learning, and positive values;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program is a community-based program that has proven its value over the past 2 years in raising the outlook and aspirations of at-risk young men and has provided them greater exposure to academics, core values, and life skills;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program provides year-round mentoring to its participants that is a proven formula for building success;

Whereas the NFL, the National Football League Players Association, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University have provided critical support to the Youth Impact Program;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program will be expanded to three additional cities in part-

nership with local NFL franchises and universities;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program seeks to establish a presence in every city with a local NFL franchise; and

Whereas under the vision and leadership of Mr. Riki Ellison, founder of the Youth Impact Program, 10-year veteran of the NFL, three-time Super Bowl champion, and a University of Southern California alumnus, the Youth Impact Program has expanded from a regional program to one with a growing national presence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Mr. Riki Ellison for his leadership and vision in founding the Youth Impact Program;

(2) recognizes the ongoing and significant contributions of the National Football League, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University to the Youth Impact program; and

(3) encourages the expansion of the Youth Impact Program to inner cities across the Nation.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of the United States;

(2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;

(3) Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

(4) Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

(5) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;

(6) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;

(7) designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(8) designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY.

Congress—

(1) designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as “Native American Heritage Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities relating to—

(A) the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;

(B) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and

(C) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the reading). Without objection, the reading is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WORKPLACE WELLNESS WEEK

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 405) recognizing the first full week of April as “National Workplace Wellness Week,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the House concurrent resolution is as follows:

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve United States workers' health, as a significant part of a working citizen's day is spent at work;

Whereas employees who improve their health reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce

pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, and pose a serious and growing challenge for U.S. business competitiveness;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, presenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driver of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from \$3 to \$15 for each dollar invested, as well as an average 28-percent reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26-percent reduction in health care costs, and an average 30-percent reduction in workers' compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health related goal that at least three-quarters of United States employers, regardless of size, voluntarily will offer a 5-element comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—

(1) health education and programming, which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees' interests and needs;

(2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization's expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease;

(3) integration of the worksite program into the organization's structure;

(4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and

(5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 United States citizens have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, CEOs of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State Governors should be encouraged to make worksite health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee

health management during the first full week of April each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Workplace Wellness Week and calls on private and public employers to voluntarily implement worksite health promotion programs to help maximize employees health, well-being, and lower health care costs; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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CONGRATULATING THE ADRIAN COLLEGE BULLDOGS MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1059) congratulating the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team for winning the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association regular season title and postseason tournament and for having the best first year win-loss record in Division III history, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1059

Whereas the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team just completed its first season with the best first year win-loss record in Division III history in the 2007-2008 season;

Whereas the Bulldogs finished the season with a 26-3 record;

Whereas the Bulldogs won their final 20 games;

Whereas the Bulldogs won the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA) postseason tournament and the Harris Cup;

Whereas the Bulldogs averaged almost 8 goals a game;

Whereas the Bulldogs' excellent first year record earned the team a national ranking and consideration for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament;

Whereas head coach Ron Fogarty guided the Bulldogs to the best first year win-loss record in Division III history;

Whereas team captain Adam Krug, a junior, was named MCHA Player of the Year, MCHA All-Conference, and MCHA All-Academic;

Whereas freshmen Eric Miller, Shawn Skelly, Chris Sansik, Quinn Wall, and Brad Fogal were named MCHA All-Conference; and

Whereas sophomore Rob Hodnicki received MCHA All-Academic honors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates and commends the Bulldogs for winning the Midwest Collegiate